

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant submits herewith two sheets of formal replacement drawings for Figures 7 and 8.

Attachment: 2 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 13 and 14 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

I. Preliminary Matters

The Examiner objects to Figures 7 and 8 as not being labeled “prior art.” The figures were inadvertently omitted upon filing the March 13, 2008 Amendment. Accordingly, Applicant submits the corrected figures herewith as requested by the Examiner.

Also, the Examiner again objects to the specification as containing unclear phrases. The Examiner has requested that the Applicant submit a substitute specification including any changes. Accordingly, Applicant submits herewith a substitute specification (clean and redlined versions). As shown in the substitute specification, Applicant added paragraph numbers to the specification. Applicant notes that according to 37 C.F.R. § 1.125(c), numbering of the paragraphs of the specification of record is not considered a change that must be shown. The substitute specification does not contain any new matter.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the disclosure set forth on page 4, lines 13-17 of the Application needs to be corrected. Applicant notes, however, that such portion was already corrected in the March 13, 2008 Amendment. Since all amendments of the March 13, 2008 Amendment are presumably entered, the previous amendments are set forth in the substitute specification without any bracketing or underlining.

Finally, the Examiner has objected to the last two lines of claims 13 and 14 as being unclear. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 13 and 14 in a manner believed to overcome the objection.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the claims in a manner believed to overcome the rejection.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,585,541 to Higashida et al. (“Higashida”)

The Examiner has rejected claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Higashida.

A. Claim 13

Applicant submits that claim 13 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 13 recites, “a housing provided with a plurality of fuse attachment portions divided by partition walls, a large-sized fuse and a small-sized fuse shorter than the large-sized fuse being attachable to the fuse attachment portions, wherein the fuse attachment portions are adapted to accommodate the whole small-sized fuse.”

The Examiner maintains that Higashida discloses the above features. In particular, the Examiner refers to fuses 8 and 10 of Figure 1. As shown in Figure 1, however, the fuses 8 and 10 are accommodated in different size fuse attachment portions. Accordingly, the fuses 8 and 10 are not attachable to each attachment portion. On the other hand, as set forth above in claim 1, the large-sized and small-sized fuses are attachable to the fuse attachment portions (i.e., the

claimed fuse attachment portions can accommodate both sizes therein). As shown in Figure 1 of Higashida, three or four different size fuses 8-11 are provided along with the respective different size accommodating portions. Thus, the respective fuse attachment portions of Higashida are not formed to accommodate varying size fuses.

Additionally, as shown in the non-limiting embodiment of Figure 1 of the present invention, the notch 65H is formed as a through-hole through the partition wall 65 to communicate adjacent fuse attachment portions to each other. The alleged notch of the fuse attachment portion 4 of Higashida fails to disclose such a feature.

At least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that claim 13 is patentable over the cited reference.

B. Claim 14

Since claim 14 recites analogous features as claim 13, Applicant submits that claim 14 is patentable for at least analogous reasons as claim 13.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account.

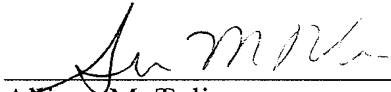
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